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Recommended Citation

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, "Edwardsville Bulletin: October 23, 1997" (1997). *SIUE "Bulletin"*. 607.
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BULLETIN

To the Faculty and Staff of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

AdmI: Pub: EB

Vol. 28, No. 22
October 23, 1997

MEMO TO: All University Faculty
FROM: David Werner 
SUBJECT: Sexual Harassment: Reminder

The American Association of University Professors' ("AAUP") Policy Documents and Reports states that faculty have an ethical responsibility to avoid any exploitation of students for private advantage. A faculty member's use of his or her position to seek unwanted sexual relations with students or anyone else within the University is unethical. Moreover, the AAUP has opined that consensual sexual relations between students and faculty members are fraught with the potential for exploitation. Faculty members are expected to be aware of their professional responsibilities and avoid apparent or actual conflicts of interest, favoritism, or bias. The University Sexual Harassment Policy and the Policy on Ethics of Instruction also prohibit consensual sexual relationships between faculty members and students who are enrolled in their classes or for whom the faculty member has an ongoing advisory relationship.

Sexual harassment is also relevant to your relationship with your colleagues and supervisors. In the employment context, sexual harassment includes repeatedly asking someone for a date, requests for sexual favors, making sexual jokes, unwanted touching, leering, sexually offensive language, and the repeated introduction of comments, objects, or pictures that are sexual in nature and irrelevant to the work or educational situation. It does not matter if the harasser intended to sexually harass the employee. Everyone on-campus has a responsibility to make the campus environment free of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment complaints by students should be directed to Rudy Wilson, Associate Provost, and Elizabeth Tarpey, Assistant to the Provost. Sexual harassment complaints by employees should be directed to Paul Pitts, Assistant to the Chancellor for Equal Employment Opportunity.

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